Licences for Manufacture of Rubber Goods

5219. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licences for the manufacture of rubber goods and dealership are issued only by the head office of the Rubber Board;

(b) the number of the regional offices of the Rubber Board at present;

(c) whether these regional offices have the powers to issue the licences;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to give powers to the regional offices to issue licences and also to renew them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the rubber based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Manufacturers' licences are issued from the Board's head Office at Kottayam and Dealer's licences are issued from the Licencing Section of the Rubber Board at Kochi.

(b) There are at present 34 Regional Offices of the Rubber Board.

(c) Regional Offices have no powers to issue licences to Dealers and manufacturers as their work is mainly to assist plantation development and render technical services.

(d) and (e). There is no proposal to give the powers to the Regional Offices as the present system is working well.

(f) In order to serve the industry better and to avoid delay, licences are issued straightaway on receipt of application necessary fee and documents in the prescribed form.

Widening of National Highway No. 49 in Kerala

5220. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of widening the National Highway No. 49 (Cochin-Madurai Road) has been completed;

(b) if not, the present position of the development work on this Highway;

(c) the amount allocated for this Highway during the current year;

(d) the progress of work on this Highway in Kanayannur, Kunntaunai, Muvattupuzha and Kothamangalam taluks in Kerala; and

(e) the details of the new bridges proposed to be constructed on this National Highway in the above taluks and the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). Development works on this newly declared National Highway will be taken up in a phased manner after the completion of necessary field surveys by the State PWD. The bridges proposed to be developed would also be identified as a part of these surveys. Annual Plan 1991-92 contains a provision of Rs. 12.35 crores for sanction of different development works on NH 49 in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.